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EDITORIALS

Shaw's troubles

GOV. JAMES MARTIN was sworn in as chairman of the state's United Negro College Fund drive last week in Raleigh.

Ten blocks away, a private black school, Shaw University, struggled to stay alive.

Martin is this state's first governor to head a UNCF drive, and he has put his -- and state workers' -- money where his mouth is, making the drive part of the State Government Employees' Annual Combined Campaign.

But Shaw, a UNCF member school, can't wait for the organization's godsend, most of which comes from the national "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon in December. It needs help now and has started a campaign of its own.

"The endowments of these institutions are too small," Martin said of UNCF schools at his swearing-in ceremony as campaign chairman, "yet they continue to work to keep class size small enough to provide individual attention to their students. The challenge is not to do a better job, but to excel."

To excel, however, you need to exist.

The UNCF raised more than \$3 million last year for North Carolina's six UNCF member institutions. Those institutions include Shaw, Barber-Scotia College in Concord, Bennett College, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, Livingstone College in Salisbury and St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.

The national UNCF campaign is one of the top four fund-raising programs in the country and benefits 43 historically black colleges and universities nationwide.

But privately funded schools, black and otherwise, still must struggle to survive in an age of frighteningly high operating costs. We have a vested interest in that battle.

"We need the kind of leadership for our young people that our black colleges and universities are providing," says Rep. Dan Blue, chairman of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus. "Without them, many of our young people would not have had the opportunity for an education in the past, and this is still true. They have proven themselves beyond a shadow of a doubt, and they still are needed."

So is your help.

The School Bus Controversy

Much has been written and said about the school bus accident that injured 35 Forsyth County students on the last day of school.

Herewith is our two cents:

The teen-age bus driver has weathered more criticism than he deserves. The school system's ambiguous stance on bus conduct has not.

Certainly the driver's judgment could have been better. Maybe he shouldn't have continued the bus route after the students had been so disruptive that he had to stop before the accident to restore order.

But, while some have been quick to advocate all-adult bus drivers, chronologically older drivers won't guarantee more psychologically mature drivers. The driver who allegedly encouraged his riders to attack two of their fellow students in an earlier incident this year was 26 years old.

What's more, rowdy students can distract a school bus driver regardless of his age.

The city-county school board and Superintendent Zane E. Eargle should mandate that disruptive conduct won't be tolerated on school buses.

They also should standardize and make crystal-clear the consequences for misbehavior on school buses. And they should involve parents somehow in ensuring that conduct does not become a problem in the future. Perhaps mothers and fathers could be recruited as volunteer monitors, as one school board member has suggested.

Whatever form it takes, parents should be involved in the solution.

Sen. John East

Sen. John East died at his home last weekend, an apparent suicide.

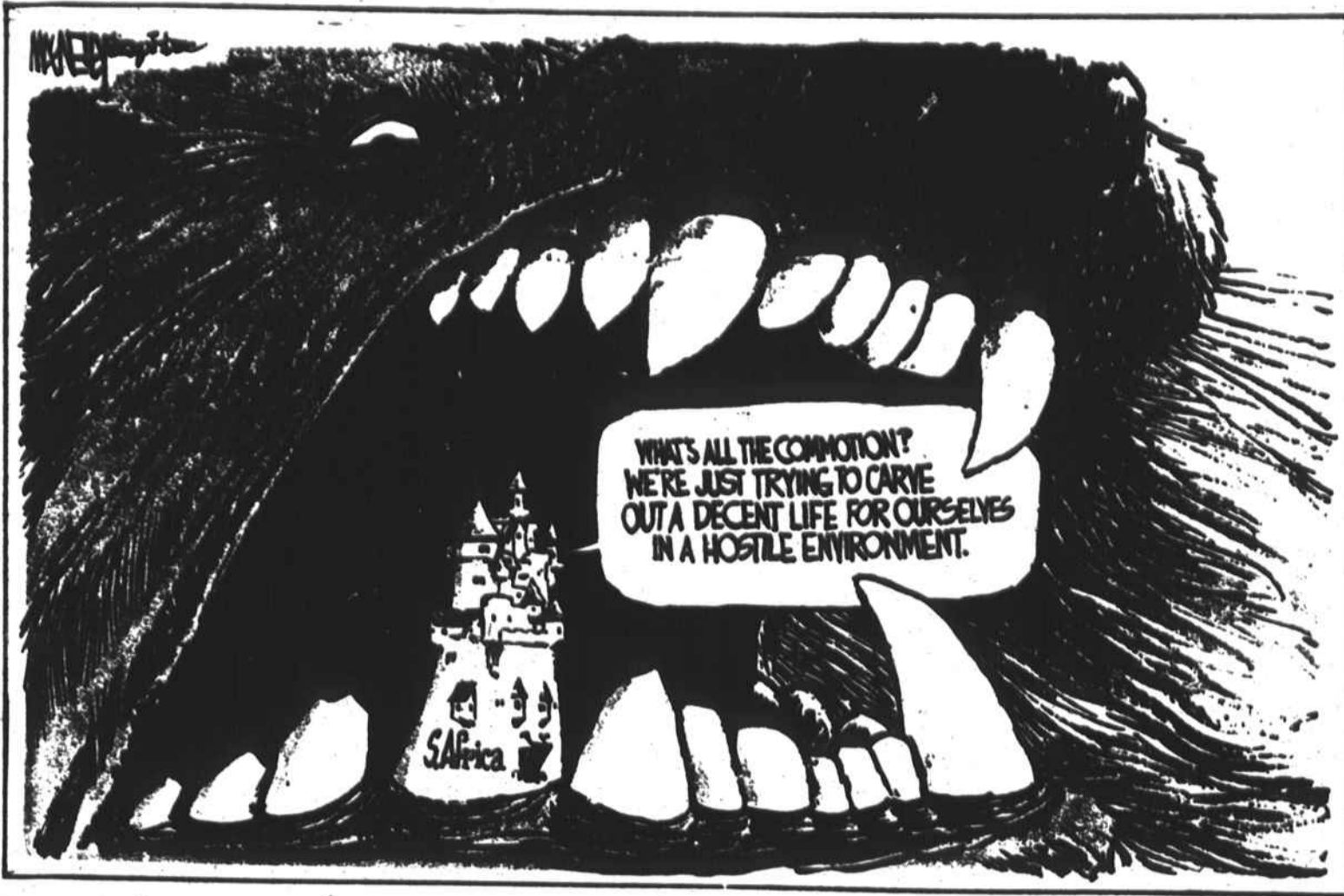
East was as conservative as they come, and he and our newspaper seldom, if ever, saw eye to eye.

East favored formal prayer in the schools. We oppose it. He opposed busing for integration. We favor it.

He and Sen. Jesse Helms voted almost identically. We, of course, despise most of what Helms stands for.

But East was a man who spoke his mind and who had worked hard, both politically and professionally, despite the crippling effects of polio and other health problems.

His death was tragic and unfortunate.



Mrs. Gregory didn't crawl or grovel

To The Editor:

Today I stand bewildered and crushed after witnessing an honest and hard-working mother being victimized and wronged by a large corporation that flourishes and prospers because it advertises itself as a Christian, life-saving and charitable organization. That organization, with hat in hands, prowls the county of Forsyth for sizeable donations from the poor and powerful, so that it can exceed an annual budget of \$6 million.

In 1980, the last of my seven years I faithfully gave to the United Way of Forsyth County Inc.'s Board of Directors, I was appointed to serve as acting chairman of the social services allocation subcommittee, which involved six agencies in the social services category: Battered Women, Family Planning, Legal Aid, Red Cross, Volunteers and the Urban League.

The designated chairman had refused to serve when she discovered the work involved. Our purpose was to hold hearings with the six agencies to see if their new budget proposals for the next year could be justified. This subcommittee only made recommendations to the Allocations General Committee.

Marjorie Gregory, a former member of the Model City Commission and a recent member of the United Way Board of Forsyth

CHRONICLE MAILBAG OUR READERS SPEAK OUT

County, was the United Way staff member to work with me with these six agencies, and contributed much to my committee by providing much-needed information to my committee and agency staff members.

As acting chairman, it was I who set the criterion for the hearings. It was I who set the pace and controlled the committee. In my opinion, and in most cases, a staff member is usually subservient to a bonafide board member.

Our hearings ran four hours or longer. Mrs. Gregory was always on time. She was always prepared. The long day was never a factor; she was personable and cheerful. All of the participating executives and staff members leaned very heavily on her answers and advice. She was always in charge of her subject matter; that was very easily recognized. Mrs. Gregory was left to fend for herself. No assistance ever came from the offices of the administration.

I do remember seeing the executive director sit in on our hearing during one session for a very few minutes. There was no other visible support from the administration. The general chairman of the Allocation Committee, Mr. Jackson Steele, was

usually present, making very valuable contributions.

It was my great pleasure to work with Mrs. Gregory for several days. I found her to be most interesting and very knowledgeable about the United Way. Her language, speech and diction left nothing to be desired, but it played a major role in her dismissal, say the rumors.

Other charges cited in her firing: She was too strict with her staff. She clamored for excellence of the highest order; she was serious, never playing for attention or the grandstand. Unfortunately, in some offices these things are vices.

Mrs. Gregory, if you should happen to read this letter, a word of advice: In some jobs and offices, you are expected to grovel and crawl before the "in crowd."

You simply did your job -- and paid for it.

H.B. Goodson
Winston-Salem

Well wishes

The writer is president of the National Dental Association.

To The Editor:

After reading the article on the Please see page A12

Newark black voters re-elect poverty

NEW YORK -- Jesse Jackson has his faults and Jesse Jackson will never be president of the United States and he misleads and dissipates the political energies of Black America with his perennial campaigns, but Jesse Jackson was historically and politically correct when he backed a qualified black candidate for Congress against an unqualified white candidate in Newark, N.J.

Columnist Carl Rowan said Jackson had created a racial "drag" on the Democratic Party that would sink it in the 1986 and 1988 elections. Jackson's injection of race is alienating whites, the writer continued, the implication being that, if Jesse Jackson were not around, whites would elect (and in some cases re-elect) blacks in greater numbers. In my opinion, the Newark race demonstrates that white alienation is not the primary political problem of blacks.

The New York Times, liberalism's bible, said in an editorial that Jackson "... insisted on a deplorable choice by race: Mr. Payne's blackness over Mr. Rodino's whiteness. The voters, most of them black, had a keener sense of their interest, including civil rights, and had no qualms about choosing Mr. Rodino."

The blacks in Newark, indeed, as the Times reported, turned their backs on Jackson, blackness and a superbly qualified black city councilman named Donald Payne. They returned to office for his 20th term a white man named Peter Rodino who ran on

TONY BROWN Syndicated Columnist

his "civil rights" record.

Rodino has done nothing to develop an economic base in an almost all-black congressional district; instead of meat and potatoes, he feeds his blacks "civil rights." The New Jersey Greater News reported that

black congressman" from New Jersey (and Rodino, an Italian, led them to believe that Jackson's logic was racist thinking), they ignored Rodino's historic ascension to office.

In 1948, the political bosses in New Jersey decided that Italians, one of the largest voting blocs in Essex County, N.J., should have a representative in Congress. The incumbent had an impeccable



Rodino's district "can boast of one of the highest functional illiteracy rates in America, one of the highest rates of unemployment in America, one of the highest rates of homeless citizens in any major area in America and one of the highest crime rates in America."

While blacks rejected Jackson's clear statement of fact that "there has never been one

record of serving his constituents, Italians included. But fairness dictated that an Italian go to Congress to represent the interests of Italians.

However, when Jackson made the same case for blacks in 1986, he was accused of racism. Not true. Rodino's record does not qualify him to represent blacks' legitimate interests and they had Please see page A12

CHILDWATCH

Make July 4 a safe holiday

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- July 4, our nation's birthday, should be a time of fun and celebration. But for Mary Jones, an 8-year-old girl, it quickly turned into a horrible experience. A spark from a sparkler she was holding caught her dress afire, causing second- and third-degree burns to her leg.

Unfortunately, Mary's was not an isolated case. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that, in 1985, 10,300 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to fireworks. More than half the injuries were burns, many involving the head and face. Forty-two percent of the victims were under 15 years old.

Many of these incidents, especially those affecting children, tend to involve fireworks and firecrackers commonly sold in stores, such as Roman candles, party poppers, sparklers and the like. Only 14 states completely ban all of these devices.

But even if you live in a state where fireworks are sold in stores, you can still take some simple steps to help protect your children from harm this Independence Day. The CPSC offers the following guidelines for parents:

- Never allow younger children to play with fireworks. No firework is a safe toy for a young child, not even the sparkler, which burns at high temperatures. Little children cannot be relied on to understand the danger involved or to act correctly if an emergency develops.

- Only allow older children to use fireworks under close adult supervision. Running or horseplay should be forbidden during use, as they increase the danger of an accident.

- Before fireworks are used, follow a few basic precautions. First, read and follow all warning instructions printed on the label. Second, light the fireworks in a clear area away from houses or flammable materials such as gasoline cans. Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of emergency or to douse fireworks that do not go off.

- While using fireworks, be as cautious as possible. Be sure other people are out of range. Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container. If a firework turns out to be a dud, do not try to relight or handle it. Just soak it with water and throw it away. Unused fireworks should be stored in a cool, dry place or according to special storage directions.

- Finally, be sure you supervise the ordering and use of mail-order, "make-your-own" fireworks kits. Some kit contents can produce dangerous, explosive devices.

I hope your family will follow these steps and have a safe, happy Fourth of July.

Marian Wright Edelman is a National Newspaper Publishers Association columnist who is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.

ABOUT LETTERS

The Chronicle welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and grammar.

Submit your letters and columns to Chronicle Mailbag, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102.